

**Hurricane Harvey Response 2017
Community Liaison (CL) Report**

TO: Janetta Coats

FROM: Darriel Swatts, Annah Murray

SUBJECT: 9/17/2017 Daily Report

COUNTY: Orange County

DATE: 9/17/2017

SUMMARY:

- **Met with Region 5 Texas Health and Human Services Offices Program Manager Ms. Bonita Gosey.**
 - Stated they are anticipating a much greater need as of next week for outreach materials regarding disaster response.
 - Said that if they get any materials they would be looking for close to 10,000 as they serve approximately 70,000.
 - She was informed of EPA limited printing capacity and said she would take what they can get and will work with it.
 - We provided digital copies of the materials via email.
 - They informed us however that in their parking lot, where hundreds of people were lined up to receive emergency SNAP benefits daily, their sewer was backing up and bubbling daily producing noxious gasses and overflow, while on site the sewer was dry (See image below) however a heavy rain event was starting, and they were concerned that it may be posing an immediate health hazard.



- Attempted to meet with Vidor City Emergency Management Coordinator Ms. Aleta Cappen.
 - She was not at the office so we took a business card and will follow up to establish contact tomorrow, 9/18/17.
- Met with Rose City Administrator Tonya Veazey.
 - She stated that their **water plant is still not operational**. They stated they have requested assistance from neighboring Vidor City, Orange County, Red Cross, and FEMA. They are in dire need.
 - Of the 270 homes in their direct community, 260 were completely destroyed.
 - Most residents are low, fixed income, and or retired.
 - They need immediate police support as their residents report heavy looting.
 - They need; towels, blankets, pillows, linens, and other emergency support resources.
 - They reported not receiving any federal support and their people are homeless as there is still no established shelter in Orange County.
 - Residents are still under water, See image below.
 - Those who have applied for FEMA assistance cannot obtain transportation to the closest shelters, most of which are two or three hours away.
 - They are living in makeshift tents and neighbor upstairs floors.
 - The roads in and out have been heavily damaged and washed out. Some are still not passible.
 - Residents are reporting a film left by the flood waters covering their homes, yards, and belongings. Residents are suspecting this is due to derailed train cars during the flood event.
 - They do not have ready access to PPE and or cleaning supplies as their local stores are out of stock.
 - This EJ community is asking for help but has little or no internet access, and those that have internet are not comfortable or in many cases capable of registering for FEMA and benefits.
 - The local government officials are overburdened as they try to individually assist each member with things like registering, organizing and distributing relief supplies, and often are taken away from their official duties to help their community members.



QUESTIONS/COMMENTS

- Waiting on Vietnamese outreach materials
- Waiting on direction in regards to moisture sensors for Chambers County
- Orange County continues to ask for sustained EPA and federal support.

COMMUNITY CONCERNS

- Debris remains a concern and an obstruction throughout many communities.



